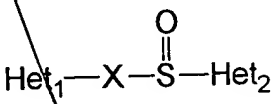
Applicants petition for a three month extension of time. Authorization is hereby given to charge Deposit Account No. 23-1703 in the amount of Three Hundred and Ninety Dollars ($390.00) to cover the extension fee as required by 37 C.F.R. §§1.17(a)(2) and 1.136(a).

Amend the claims as follows:

Cancel claims 15, 16, 20, 21 and 23-25.

Substitute amended claims 1-7, 10, 11, 18 and 19 for the respective pending claims as follows:

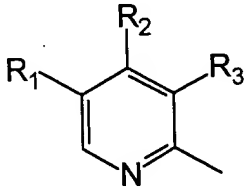
1. (Thrice amended) A method of treatment for improving the inhibition of gastric acid secretion comprising the oral administration of a pharmaceutical formulation comprising a therapeutically effective amount of an acid labile H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor, wherein the method induces an extended blood plasma profile of the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor, and the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor is a compound of the formula I



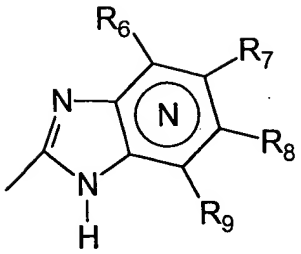
I

wherein

Het_1 is



Het_2 is



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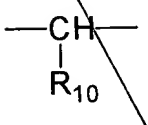
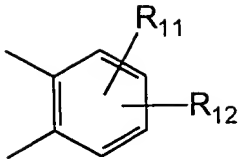


or



wherein

N in the benzimidazole moiety means that one of the ring carbon atoms substituted by R_6-R_9 optionally may be exchanged for a nitrogen atom without any substituents;

R_1, R_2 and R_3 are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, fluorine-substituted alkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxyalkoxy, dialkylamino, piperidino, morpholino, halogen, phenyl and phenylalkoxy;

R_6-R_9 are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, halo-alkoxy, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, oxazolyl, trifluoroalkyl, or adjacent groups R_6-R_9 form ring structures which may be further substituted;

R_{10} is hydrogen or forms an alkylene chain together with R_3; and

R_{11} and R_{12} are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen or alkyl.

2. (Twice amended) The method according to claim 1 or 26, wherein the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor is a compound selected from the group consisting of omeprazole, an alkaline salt of omeprazole, the (-)-enantiomer of omeprazole and an alkaline salt of the (-)-enantiomer of omeprazole.

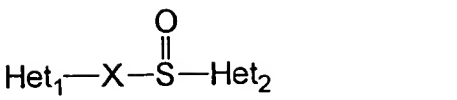
3. (Twice amended) The method according to claim 1 or 26, wherein the extended blood plasma profile is obtained by two or more consecutive oral administrations of a unit dose of the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor with 0.5 - 4 hours intervals.

4. (Twice amended) The method according to claim 1 or 26, wherein the extended blood plasma profile is obtained by oral administration of the pharmaceutical formulation which releases the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor for absorption in two or more discrete pulses separated in time by 0.5 - 4 hours.

5. (Thrice amended) The method according to claim 1 or 26, wherein the extended blood plasma profile is obtained by oral administration of the pharmaceutical formulation which releases the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor for absorption with an almost constant rate during an extended time period.

6. (Thrice amended) The method according to any of claims 1-5 or 26, wherein the extended blood plasma profile is maintained for 2 - 12 hours.

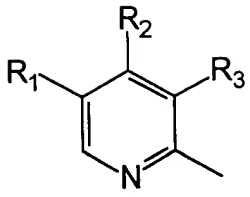
7. (Thrice amended) An oral pharmaceutical formulation comprising an acid labile H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the formulation induces an extended blood plasma profile of the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor, and the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor is a compound of the formula I



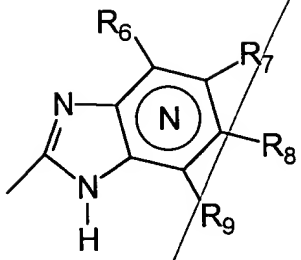
I

wherein

Het_1 is



Het_2 is



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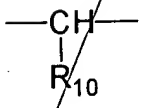

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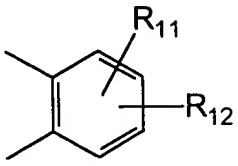


wherein

N in the benzimidazole moiety means that one of the ring carbon atoms substituted by R_6-R_9 optionally may be exchanged for a nitrogen atom without any substituents;

R_1, R_2 and R_3 are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, fluorine-substituted alkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxyalkoxy, dialkylamino, piperidino, morpholino, halogen, phenyl and phenylalkoxy;

R_6-R_9 are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, halo-alkoxy, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, oxazolyl, trifluoroalkyl, or adjacent groups R_6-R_9 form ring structures which may be further substituted;

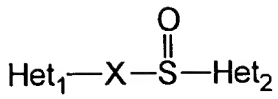
R_{10} is hydrogen or forms an alkylene chain together with R_3; and

R_{11} and R_{12} are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen or alkyl.

10. (Thrice amended) The oral pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 7, wherein the pharmaceutical formulation releases the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor for absorption with an almost constant rate during an extended time period.

11. (Thrice amended) The oral pharmaceutical formulation according to any of claims 7-10, wherein the extended blood plasma profile is maintained for 2 -12 hours.

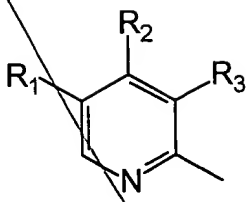
18. (Twice amended) A method of treatment for improving the inhibition of gastric acid secretion comprising the oral administration of a pharmaceutical formulation comprising a therapeutically effective amount of an acid labile H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor, wherein the method induces an extended blood plasma profile of the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor, and the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor is a compound of the formula I



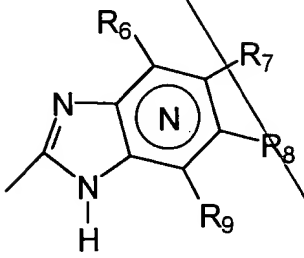
I

wherein

Het_1 is



Het_2 is



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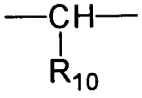
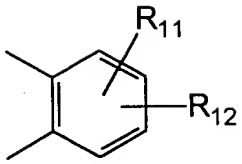


or



wherein

N in the benzimidazole moiety means that one of the ring carbon atoms substituted by R_6-R_9 optionally may be exchanged for a nitrogen atom without any substituents;

R_1, R_2 and R_3 are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, fluorine-substituted alkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxyalkoxy, dialkylamino, piperidino, morpholino, halogen, phenyl and phenylalkoxy;

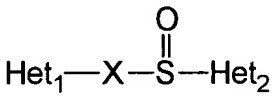
R_6-R_9 are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, halo-alkoxy, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, oxazolyl, trifluoroalkyl, or adjacent groups R_6-R_9 form ring structures which may be further substituted;

R_{10} is hydrogen or forms an alkylene chain together with R_3; and

R_{11} and R_{12} are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen or alkyl

with the proviso that the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor is not pantoprazole.

19. (Twice amended) An oral pharmaceutical formulation comprising an acid labile H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the formulation induces an extended blood plasma profile of the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor, and the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor is a compound of the formula I

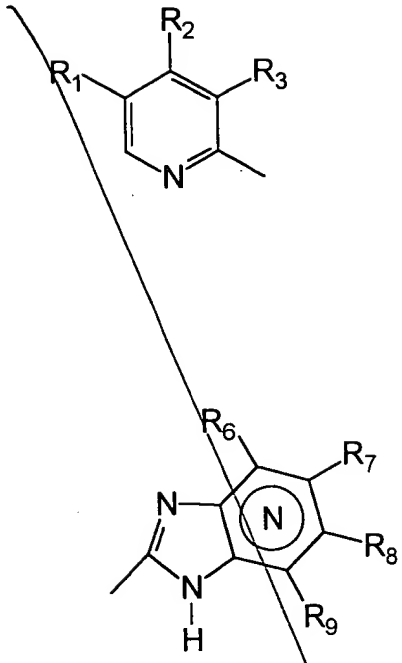


I

wherein

Het_1 is

Het$_2$ is



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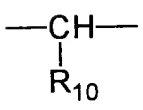

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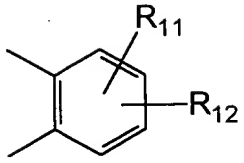


wherein

N in the benzimidazole moiety means that one of the ring carbon atoms substituted by R_6-R_9 optionally may be exchanged for a nitrogen atom without any substituents;

R_1, R_2 and R_3 are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, fluorine-substituted alkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxyalkoxy, dialkylamino, piperidino, morpholino, halogen, phenyl and phenylalkoxy;

R_6-R_9 are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, halo-alkoxy, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, oxazolyl, trifluoroalkyl, or adjacent groups R_6-R_9 form ring structures which may be further substituted;

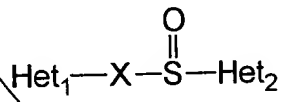
R_{10} is hydrogen or forms an alkylene chain together with R_3; and

R_{11} and R_{12} are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen or alkyl,

with the proviso that the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor is not pantoprazole.

Add new claims 26 and 27:

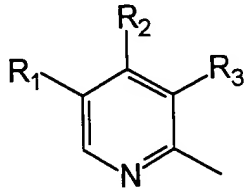
26. (New) A method for improving the treatment of gastrointestinal disorders associated with excess acid secretion comprising the oral administration of a pharmaceutical formulation comprising a therapeutically effective amount of an acid labile H+, K+-ATPase inhibitor, wherein the method induces an extended blood plasma profile of the H+, K+-ATPase inhibitor, and the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor is a compound of the formula I



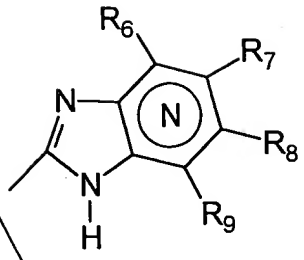
I

wherein

Het_1 is



Het_2 is



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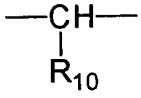

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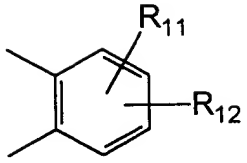


wherein

N in the benzimidazole moiety means that one of the ring carbon atoms substituted by R_6-R_9 optionally may be exchanged for a nitrogen atom without any substituents;

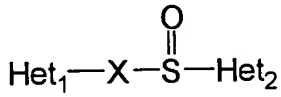
R_1, R_2 and R_3 are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, fluorine-substituted alkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxyalkoxy, dialkylamino, piperidino, morpholino, halogen, phenyl and phenylalkoxy;

R_6-R_9 are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, halo-alkoxy, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, oxazolyl, trifluoroalkyl, or adjacent groups R_6-R_9 form ring structures which may be further substituted;

R_{10} is hydrogen or forms an alkylene chain together with R_3; and

R_{11} and R_{12} are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen or alkyl.

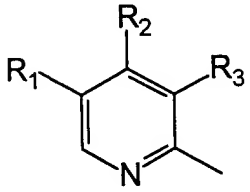
27. (New) A method for improving the treatment of gastrointestinal disorders associated with excess acid secretion comprising the oral administration of a pharmaceutical formulation comprising a therapeutically effective amount of an acid labile H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor, wherein the method induces an extended blood plasma profile of the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor, and the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor is a compound of the formula I



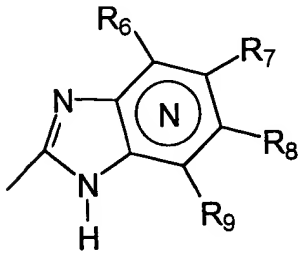
I

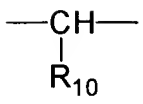
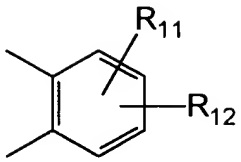
wherein

Het_1 is



Het_2 is



X =  or 

wherein

N in the benzimidazole moiety means that one of the ring carbon atoms substituted by R_6-R_9 optionally may be exchanged for a nitrogen atom without any substituents;

R_1, R_2 and R_3 are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, fluorine-substituted alkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxyalkoxy, dialkylamino, piperidino, morpholino, halogen, phenyl and phenylalkoxy;

R_6-R_9 are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, halo-alkoxy, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, oxazolyl, trifluoroalkyl, or adjacent groups R_6-R_9 form ring structures which may be further substituted;

R_{10} is hydrogen or forms an alkylene chain together with R_3; and

R_{11} and R_{12} are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen or alkyl,

with the proviso that the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor is not pantoprazole.